

In the Claims

1           1.     [Original] A method of configuring a hard copy output engine  
2 comprising:  
3           downloading data including a configuration plug-in and configuration data  
4 each including user-specified information; and  
5           configuring the hard copy output engine using the downloaded data.

1           2.     [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration plug-in  
2 and configuration data include data prepared by:  
3           determining a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and  
4           determining user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard  
5 copy output engine.

1           3.     [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein downloading includes:  
2           sending an electronic message via the Internet to a website for a vendor  
3 associated with the hard copy output engine; and  
4           receiving an electronic message via the Internet in response to sending.

1           4.     [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein downloading includes:  
2           sending an electronic message via the Internet to a vendor associated  
3 with the hard copy output engine; and  
4           receiving an electronic message via the Internet in response to sending,  
5 wherein sending and receiving include transmission across a firewall.

1           5.     [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein configuring includes  
2 setting a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of:  
3 pigmentation material, marking material, number of hours of operation and  
4 number of sheets of print media consumed.

1           6.     [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein the hard copy output  
2 engine is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers  
3 and printers.

1           7.     [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration plug-in  
2 and configuration data include data prepared by:  
3           determining a make and model for the hard copy output engine;  
4           determining a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and  
5           determining user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard  
6 copy output engine.

1           8.     [Original] An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable  
2 medium having computer readable code embodied therein that is configured to  
3 cause a processor to:  
4           download data including a configuration plug-in and configuration data  
5 each including user-specified information; and  
6           configure a hard copy output engine using the downloaded data.

1           9.     [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the  
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard  
3 copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the  
4 processor to:  
5           determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and  
6           determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy  
7 output engine.

1           10.    [Currently Amended] The article of manufacture of claim 8,  
2 wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to  
3 download data includes computer readable code ~~configured to cause~~ that when  
4 executed causes the processor to:  
5           send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a  
6 website for a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and  
7           receive a second electronic message across the firewall via the Internet in  
8 response to the first electronic message.

1           11. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the  
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to download data  
3 includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to:  
4           send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a  
5 website for a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and  
6           receive a second electronic message across a firewall via the Internet in  
7 response to the first electronic message.

1           12. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the  
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard  
3 copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the  
4 processor to configure the hard copy output engine using the downloaded data  
5 to set a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of:  
6 pigmentation material, marking material, number of hours of operation and  
7 number of sheets of print media consumed.

1           13. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the  
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard  
3 copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the  
4 processor to configure a hard copy output engine chosen from a group  
5 consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

1           14. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the  
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard  
3 copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the  
4 processor to:  
5           determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine;  
6           determine a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and  
7           determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy  
8 output engine.

1           15. [Currently Amended] A computer implemented control system for  
2 a hard copy output engine, the system comprising:  
3           memory configured to store a software module; and  
4           processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to:  
5                 download data including ~~a configuration plug-in and~~ configuration  
6 data each including user-specified information; and  
7                 configure a hard copy output engine using the downloaded data.

1           16. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module  
3 further comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module  
4 to:  
5                 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and  
6                 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy  
7 output engine.

1           17. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to  
3 configure includes processing circuitry configured to employ the software  
4 module to configure the hard copy output engine using the downloaded data to  
5 set a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of: pigmentation  
6 material, marking material, number of hours of operation and number of sheets  
7 of print media consumed.

1           18. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module  
3 further includes processing circuitry configured to employ the software module  
4 to:  
5                 send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a  
6 vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and  
7                 receive a second electronic message across the firewall via the Internet in  
8 response to the first electronic message.

1           19. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the hard copy output engine is chosen from a group consisting of:  
3 facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

1           20. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module  
3 further comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module  
4 to:

5           determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine;  
6           determine a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and  
7           determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy  
8 output engine.

1           21. [Original] A computer instruction signal embodied in a carrier wave  
2 carrying instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to:  
3           download data including a configuration plug-in and configuration data  
4 each including user-specified information; and  
5           configure a hard copy output engine using the downloaded data.

1           22. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the  
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions  
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a  
4 computer instruction signal carrying instructions that when executed cause the  
5 processor to:  
6           determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and  
7           determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy  
8 output engine.

1           23. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the  
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions  
3 that cause the processor to download data includes a computer instruction  
4 signal carrying instructions that cause the processor to:

5           send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a  
6 website for a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and  
7           receive a second electronic message across the firewall via the Internet in  
8 response to the first electronic message.

1           24. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the  
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions  
3 that cause the processor to download data includes a computer instruction  
4 signal carrying instructions that when executed cause the processor to:

5           send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a  
6 website for a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and  
7           receive a second electronic message across a firewall via the Internet in  
8 response to the first electronic message.

1           25. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the  
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions  
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a  
4 computer instruction signal carrying instructions that when executed cause the  
5 processor to configure the hard copy output engine using the downloaded data  
6 to set a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of:  
7 pigmentation material, marking material, number of hours of operation and  
8 number of sheets of print media consumed.

1           26. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the  
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions  
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a  
4 computer instruction signal carrying instructions that when executed cause the  
5 processor to configure a hard copy output engine chosen from a group  
6 consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

1           27. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the  
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions  
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a

4 computer instruction signal carrying instructions that when executed cause the  
5 processor to:

- 6 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine;
- 7 determine a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and
- 8 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy  
9 output engine.

1 28. [New] The method of claim 1, wherein the downloading  
2 comprising downloading a value, and the configuring comprises setting a  
3 threshold for a consumable associated with the hard copy output engine using  
4 the value.

1 29. [New] The method of claim 1, wherein the downloading  
2 comprising downloading a threshold for replenishment of a consumable  
3 associated with the hard copy output engine.

1 30. [New] The method of claim 29, wherein the configuring comprises  
2 setting the threshold of the hard copy output engine.

1 31. [New] The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 providing the user-specified information from a user; and  
3 generating at least one of the configuration plug-in and configuration data  
4 using the user-specified information before the downloading.

1 32. [New] The method of claim 1, wherein the configuring comprises  
2 altering the hard copy output engine.

1 33. [New] The method of claim 1, wherein the configuring comprises  
2 altering an operation of the hard copy output engine with respect to formation of  
3 hard images upon paper.

1 34. [New] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to employ the software module to

3 set a threshold for replenishment of a consumable associated with the hard copy  
4 output engine to configure the hard copy output engine.

1 35. [New] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to employ the software module to  
3 configure the hard copy output engine comprising altering the hard copy output  
4 engine.

1 36. [New] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to employ the software module to  
3 configure the hard copy output engine comprising altering an operation of the  
4 hard copy output engine with respect to formation of hard images upon paper.

1 37. [New] A configuration method comprising:  
2 discovering a plurality of hard copy output engines coupled with a  
3 network;  
4 accessing user input information using a device external of the hard copy  
5 output engines;  
6 generating configuration data responsive to the user input information  
7 using the device;  
8 communicating the configuration data from the device to the hard copy  
9 output engines; and  
10 setting thresholds of the hard copy output engines for replenishment of  
11 consumables of the respective hard copy output engines using the configuration  
12 data.

1 38. [New] The method of claim 37, wherein the communicating  
2 comprises communicating executable instructions which configure individual  
3 ones of the hard copy output engines to perform the setting for the respective  
4 individual hard copy output engine.

39. [New] The method of claim 37, wherein the discovering comprises  
discovering using a discovery plug-in.